

KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Facilities and Operations Subcommittee
February 20, 2004
Minutes

Members in Attendance

Bob Beckwith
Steve Goldstein
Mark Hooper
Max Pope
Ray Schlien

Others in Attendance

Kevin Kiernan
Lisa Williams
Jane Gateley

Call to Order

Division Engineering Manager Kevin Kiernan called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

Thorton Creek Alliance Recognizes SWD

Lisa Williams, Project Manager for the First Northeast Transfer Station Improvement Project, discussed the certificate of appreciation received by the Solid Waste Division from the Thorton Creek Alliance. In January 2004, Alliance President John Lombard presented the award to the division for working with the City of Shoreline, area residents and customers of the transfer station to design a site plan that would preserve and enhance Thorton Creek. The division involved the community in developing a plan to restore the North Fork of Thorton Creek that flows through the site, enhance a natural buffer to protect the creek, and provide a public viewing and educational area. The division developed 15 possible designs to protect the creek and its habitat and involved citizens in selecting the design that best met their goals.

SWAC member Steve Goldstein added that the surrounding community was impressed with the public process carried out by the division.

Kevin Kiernan said the plan is now moving from the conceptual to the design phase. The division hopes to begin the site renovation in 2005. He added that the division is working with Snohomish County to handle some customer traffic during heavy construction periods.

Northeast Lake Washington Service Area Planning

Kevin Kiernan gave a short history of the Houghton Transfer Station beginning with the 1940s when the site was an open dump up and continuing to current times when Houghton became a modern, full-service transfer station.

- Open dump operated on site from mid-1940's to mid-1960's
- Transfer Station replaced old landfill in mid-1960's
- During the 1970's ballfield use of site began
- Improvements made at Transfer Station from mid-1980's to mid-1990's
 - Parking Lot improvements- limit to number of parked trailers
 - Modify trailer lids- improve containment, reduce water infiltration and bird access to refuse
 - Improve drainage- improve separation of contaminated from clean stormwater
 - Increased litter pick-up Established number to call in for Division response 296-4490
 - Added recycling service
 - Replaced scalehouse
 - Added generator to ensure environmental systems operate through power outage.
 - Improved queuing lane on NE 60th
 - Fencing and plantings on perimeter

In the mid-1990s, plans were proposed to enhance Houghton and other facilities. These plans were rejected by the King County Council and the Division was directed to maximize existing facilities with minimal capital investment. As the stations have aged, and population and traffic have increased, the division is again looking at plans to improve not just individual stations but the efficiency of the transfer system as a whole. This becomes particularly important as the division moves toward closing the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and transitioning to waste export.

The Houghton Transfer Station in Kirkland and Factoria Transfer Station in Bellevue currently provide garbage and recycling services to about 19 cities in King County. Some of the planned

station improvement projects, such as a new roof at the Houghton station, will improve traffic flow and customer service. But there has been some public pressure from Kirkland to close the Houghton station and site a new station elsewhere in the county. While there is no consensus at this time about how to handle growing needs at the current facilities, Kiernan pointed out that siting a new station would be a costly and difficult process. The process could take 10 years, if a site could even be found that met the technical requirements and could pass public scrutiny.

Ray Schlien, SWAC member, discussed a proposal prepared by SWAC member Mark Hooper, for a new transfer station on the Sammamish Plateau. The proposal suggests that the county's population growth is on the eastside and recommends construction of a transfer station east of Lake Sammamish. SWAC member Max Pope recommended the Carnation/Duvall area.

Kiernan said that a transfer station cannot be built outside of the county's urban growth boundary under the Growth Management Act. However, it might be possible to construct a full-service transfer station on the site of the Cedar Falls Drop Box.

While members agreed that the process for siting a new station would be difficult, they thought the county should consider it, given the age and condition of the division's transfer stations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.